

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 01154 231904Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7407
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 1154

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO-QUEBEC LABOR DISPUTE HEATS UP

1. A SIMMERING DISPUTE BETWEEN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC REGARDING
EMPLOYMENT OF ONTARIO RESIDENTS IN THE QUEBEC CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY HAS HEATED UP TO THE POINT WHERE THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT
HAS THREATENED RETALIATION IN KIND.

2. AT ISSUE IS A QUEBEC POLICY, DUE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY PREVENT ONTARIO RESIDENTS FROM WORKING ON
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN QUEBEC. INTER-PROVINCIAL MOVEMENT OF
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IS TRADITIONAL; ONTARIO ESTIMATES ABOUT
1000 ONTARIANS WORKING ON QUEBEC PROJECTS AND 5000 QUEBECKERS IN
ONTARIO (QUEBEC'S ESTIMATE IS 2000).

3. THE ONTARIO PREMIER HAS ASKED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO LAY
THE CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA FOR A DETERMINATION
AS TO THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE QUEBEC POLICY. SHOULD THE
COURT RULE IN FAVOR OF QUEBEC (OR SHOULD THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT FAIL TO BRING THE CASE TO COURT), THE ONTARIO
GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO IMPOSE SIMILAR RESIDENCE
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RESTRICTIONS ON QUEBEC WORKERS IN ONTARIO; A BILL AUTHORIZING
THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SO HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE MINISTER OF LABOR. DIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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